



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For release: March 16, 2015

Contact: Sherry Llewellyn, 410-313-2236
stllewellyn@howardcountymd.gov

Police accreditation team invites comment

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will visit the Howard County Police Department this month to examine all aspects of police policy, procedures, management, operations and support services. As part of the on-site assessment, members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on March 23.

The Police Department must comply with more than 400 standards in order to gain re-accreditation status, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

"I am proud of our department's track record of exceeding requirements for re-accreditation," said Police Chief Gary Gardner. "I expect this year will be no different, thanks to our great employees and volunteers, and our positive relationship with the community."

The public information session will be conducted Monday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. The session will be held in the Columbia Room of the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City. Members of the public who cannot be present at the public information session, but would like to provide comments to the assessment team may call 410-313-2214 on March 23 from 3-5 p.m. Comments will be taken directly by the Assessment Team.

The assessment team is comprised of law enforcement practitioners from similar agencies in other states. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals and visit facilities to confirm compliance with all CALEA standards. The assessors are: Team Leader, Assistant Chief Brett West, Gwinnett County (GA) Police Department and retired Commander Katherine Foos Nuanes of the Arvada (CO) Police Department.

Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the Howard County Police Department, they will report back to the full Commission, which then decides if the agency is to be granted re-accreditation status. Certification covers three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports to the Commission demonstrating continued compliance with all required standards. The HCPD has been nationally accredited since 1990.

Telephone comments and appearances at the public information session are generally limited to 10 minutes and must address the Howard County Police Department's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. The standards may be reviewed at police headquarters. The local contact is Tamera G. Bulla who can be reached at 410-313-3229 or by e-mail to tbulla@howardcountymd.gov.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the Howard County Police Department's ability to meet the standards for Accreditation may write to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia 20155. Written comments may also be submitted by email to calea@calea.org, with "Howard County Police" in the subject line. For more information about CALEA, citizens can write to the same address, visit www.calea.org or call 800-368-3757 or 703-352-4225.

###